



TATTOOING TO BE REGULATED BY DHEC

COLUMBIA. Pursuant to a law passed by the 2004 legislature and signed by the Governor on June 17, 2004, in order for any business to engage in tattooing in SC, the business must first be licensed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), which will not occur until a regulation is promulgated (per § 44-34-20 of the law) by DHEC.

'Tattoo or tattooing', as defined by law, means "to indelibly mark or color the skin by subcutaneous introduction of nontoxic dyes or pigments."

A Notice of Drafting was published in the *State Register* of July 23, 2004.

Best case scenario; the earliest the regulation could be fully approved and facilities could be licensed is May or June of 2005.

Until the regulation is promulgated, illegal tattooing activity should be reported to local law enforcement officials.

Those who violate the provisions of this law, i.e., engage in tattooing in this State without first being licensed to do so, are guilty of a misdemeanor and could be fined up to \$2,500.00 or imprisoned up to one year, or both.

The previously planned September 2004 meeting to obtain public comments will be merged into a Staff Informational Forum to be held on December 30, 2004, and will be announced in the Fall of 2004 in the *State Register*.